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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,524	07/13/2001	Hawley K. Rising III	080398.P426	3479
8791	7590	09/09/2005	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030			ALAM, SHAHID AL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2162	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/905,524	RISING, HAWLEY K.	
Examiner		Art Unit	
Shahid Al Alam		2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 16 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons.

Applicant argues that the Examiner misinterpreted Applicant's Background section by asserting the APA discloses determining the abstraction level.

APA teaches an abstraction can be used as a template for creating descriptions of specific audiovisual items or lower level abstractions. Combined teachings of APA and Smith teaches audio-visual abstraction types as claimed. Examiner conclude that using of an abstraction and creating a level of abstraction in APA clearly teaches determination of a level of abstraction as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "APA") and in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,233,183 issued to John Smith et al. (hereinafter "Smith").

With respect to claims 1, 11 and 22, APA teaches a method for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising: evaluating a description of audiovisual content (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 9); determining whether the description is an abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 12 – 16); and if the description is an abstraction, determining a level of abstraction, wherein the level of abstraction identifies one or plurality of types of abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 12 – 22).

APA does not explicitly teach storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of audiovisual content as claimed.

However, Smith discloses claimed storing an indicator of the level of abstraction (Smith: column 4, line 63 – column 5, line 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was to combine Smith with APA to provide a uniform description scheme and to provide an abstraction layer between image, video and audio description schemes and multimedia applications and the stored, compressed data, which then allows the data to be referenced and accessed in terms of space and frequency views (see Smith: column 3, lines 3 – 8).

As to claim 2, the description of audiovisual content is a semantic description (page 2, lines 3 – 9).

As to claim 3, utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine a usage mode of the description of audiovisual content (Smith: column 1, lines 17 – 36).

As to claim 4, the usage mode is any one of a descriptive mode or an accessing mode (APA: page 1, lines 15 – 17 and Smith: column 1, lines 39 – 48).

As to claim 5, utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is a media abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 16).

As to claim 6, utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is a lambda abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 20).

As to claim 7, the indicator of the level of abstraction includes a positive integer to store a number associated with the level of abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 20).

As to claim 8, the indicator further includes a term to point to one of a plurality of entries in a classification scheme, the one of the plurality of entries being defined by the abstraction (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 20).

As to claim 9, the description of the audiovisual content is a description scheme (APA: page 2, lines 3 – 20).

With respect to claim 10, APA does not explicitly teach searching a database of descriptions using a level of abstraction specified by a user as claimed. Smith teaches claimed searching a database of descriptions using a level of abstraction specified by a user. Smith teaches steps of standardizing the interface for multimedia content search and filtering in a large number of multimedia storage (see Smith: column 1, lines 43 – 54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Smith with APA to improve the ability by which audio-visual content is indexed, searched, browsed, filed and filtered in a large

number of multimedia storage and retrieval applications and to enable interoperability between image and video systems.

The subject matter of claims 12 – 21 are rejected in the analysis above in claims 1 – 10 and these claims are rejected on that basis.

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shahid Al Alam whose telephone number is (571) 272-4030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Shahid Al Alam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2162

5 September 2005